

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05

EB-07 IO-13 /077 W

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R 200839Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5810

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3463

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KU, EG, SY, SA

SUBJ: OPPOSITION DEPUTY CHARGES GOK WITH IMPLEMENTING POLICY OF
AMERICAN MASTERS

DURING JULY 18 SESSION OF KUWAIT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, LEFTIST
LEADER (OF VERY SMALL GROUP OF OPPOSITION DEPUTIES)
DR. AHMAD AL-KHATIB LAUNCHED VOCIFEROUS ATTACK ON GOK
FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES. ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS,
BOTH ARABIC AND ENGLISH, HE CHARGED THAT GOK POLICIES
WERE "IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY OF THE AMERICAN MASTERS"
IN THE GULF.

2. ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AL-KHATIB CHARGED THAT GOK CON-
SIDERATION OF MILITARY COOPERATION AND SECURITY ALLIANCE
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AMONG GULF STATES AND GOK PARTICIPATION IN AN "EGYPTIAN-

SAUDI ARABIAN-SYRIAN ALLIANCE" WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON WERE SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. POLICY IN THE AREA. HE FURTHER CHARGED THAT A KUWAITI LOAN OF 30 MILLION KUWAIT DINARS (APPROX \$100 MILLION) GRANTED EARLIER TO SUDAN WAS DONE AT INSTIGATION OF "AMERICAN MASTERS" TO PREVENT SUDANESE FROM SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. AL-KHATIB ALSO RESURRECTED UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES OF GOK CORRUPTION, INCLUDING \$4 MILLION COMMISSION ALLEGEDLY PAID TO UNIDENTIFIED US COMPANY FOR PURCHASE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT. HE AGAIN CRITICIZED GOK INVESTMENT POLICY SAYING IT CONCENTRATED ON PLACING KUWAITI FUNDS IN US BANKS, WHEN SUCH FUNDS WOULD BE BETTER USED BY RETURNING THEM TO "ASSIST THE ARAB PEOPLE."

3. AL-KHATIB WAS ANSWERED FIRMLY BY VARIOUS MINISTERS, INCLUDING DEFENSE MINISTER SHAIKH SA'D AND ACTING PRIME MINISTER SHAIKH JABIR AL-'ALI. THEY POINTEDLY REFERRED TO AL-KHATIB'S ADHERENCE TO A "CERTAIN IDEOLOGY", NOTED THAT \$4 MILLION COMMISSION CHARGE HAD BEEN DEALT WITH IN CLOSED SESSION, AND REMINDED HIM THAT LOAN TO SUDAN WAS TO HELP ARAB PEOPLE THERE.

4. COMMENT: AL-KHATIB'S ATTACK WAS OBVIOUS GRANDSTAND PLAY TO GAIN LIMELIGHT DURING CLOSING DAYS OF CURRENT SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, A SESSION DURING WHICH HE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET. ESSENTIALLY, HE REHASHED OLD CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND GOK MISMANAGEMENT OF INVESTMENT FUNDS AND REITERATED HIS LEFTIST AND ANTI-AMERICAN VIEWS. OF MORE INTEREST IS HIS BROADSIDE ATTACK LINKING GOK POLICY IN GULF AND LEBANON WITH US POLICY IN THE AREA: WE HAVE HEARD NO SIMILAR REMARKS LATELY FROM OTHER PROMINENT KUWAITIS. THIS OUTBURST IS MORE LIKELY ONE-SHORT ATTEMPT BY AL-KHATIB TO GARNER PRESS ATTENTION AND REMIND HIS RADICAL SUPPORTERS THAT HE IS STILL IN THERE PITCHING.
MAESTRONE

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